



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Netherlands

### Poultry and Products

## Low Pathogenic AI suspected on Dutch poultry farm 2006

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**Report Highlights:** On August 1, 2006, traces of the low pathogenic form of the avian influenza virus have been found on a Dutch poultry farm. The farm is located in the middle of the main egg producing area of the country.

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On August 1, 2006, traces of the low pathogenic form of the avian influenza virus have been found on a Dutch poultry farm. The farm is located in Voorthuizen, in the central part of the Netherlands, in the middle of the main egg producing area of the country. The disease was found after routine sampling by the Dutch veterinary authorities. The low pathogenic form only affects poultry mildly and is not harmful for humans. Low pathogenic strains can, however, transform into high pathogenic strains, which can be pathogenic and even lethal for humans. The strain found on the farm in Voorthuizen is of the H7 strain and not the H5N1 type, which has been found in a number of EU Member States since last fall.

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality took the following actions:

- The poultry farm has been blocked and all birds on the farm will be eradicated.
- Samples have been taken on five other poultry farms, which are located in a radius of one kilometer around the suspected farm.
- All transport of birds, eggs, litter and manure is forbidden in a radius of three kilometer around the suspected farm. In addition, all transport of mammals from farms holding poultry is forbidden within this area.

According the Animal Disease Notification System of the European Commission ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/diseases/adns/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/animal/diseases/adns/index_en.htm)), six cases of low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry have been notified in the EU during January – July 2006. During this period, 660 cases of high pathogenic avian influenza cases have been notified to the EC, of which 183 were in domestic poultry and 477 in wild birds.

For more information about the developments regarding the presence of avian influenza in the EU, please go to the website of the U.S. Mission to the EU:

<http://useu.usmission.gov/agri/avian.html>